

defining for each transceiver node a common function that assigns one time slot sub-set of said plurality of time slot sub-sets to each point in space, wherein said each point in space is identified by a unique set of space coordinates;

performing the following steps for each one of said transceiver nodes:

periodically identifying a set of space coordinates; and

allocating to said each one of said transceiver nodes time slots belonging to the time slot sub-set assigned by said common function to the point in space identified by the periodically identified set of space coordinates; and

resolving time slot allocation conflicts occurring when at least two transceiver nodes of said network of transceiver nodes are allocated time slots belonging to an identical time slot sub-set and the distance between said at least two transceiver nodes is less than a predetermined distance threshold.

12. A system for allocating a set of time slots belonging to a common time division multiple access (TDMA) channel to a network of transceiver nodes, said system comprising:

means for dividing said set of time slots into a plurality of time slot sub-sets;

means for defining for each transceiver node a common function that assigns one time slot sub-set of said plurality of time slot sub-sets to each point in space, wherein said each point in space is identified by a unique set of space coordinates;

means for performing the following steps for each one of said transceiver nodes:

periodically identifying a set of space coordinates; and

allocating to said each one of said transceiver nodes time slots belonging to the time slot sub-set assigned by said common function to the point in space identified by the periodically identified set of space coordinates; and

means for resolving time slot allocation conflicts occurring when at least two transceiver nodes are allocated time slots belonging to an identical time slot sub-set and the distance between said at least two transceiver nodes is less than a predetermined distance threshold.

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. With this Preliminary Amendment, original Claims 2 and 13 have been cancelled and Claims 1 and 12 have been replaced. Specifically, replaced Claims 1 and 12 incorporate the limitations of original Claims 2 and 13, respectively. Original independent Claims 1 and 12 have been replaced with new independent Claims 1 and 12 in order to better define the Applicant's invention and not for patentability purposes.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's undersigned attorney at (516) 228-8484.

Respectfully submitted,



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